**ROMAN HISTORY**

**罗马史**

**Sources Week 5**

**Conflict, Conquest, Carthage**

**Source 1: Polybius, *Histories*, 1.62–63**

62 1 Even on hearing of this unexpected defeat the Carthaginians, had they let themselves be guided by passion and ambition, would readily have continued the war, but when it came to a matter of cool calculation they were quite at a loss. 2 For one thing they were no longer able to send supplies to their forces in Sicily as the enemy commanded the sea, and if they abandoned and in a manner betrayed them, they had neither other men nor other leaders with whom to pursue the war. 3 They therefore at once sent a message to Barcas giving him full powers to deal with the situation. Hamilcar acted thoroughly like the good and prudent leader he was. 4 As long as there had been some reasonable hope in the situation he had left no means, however perilous and p171 venturesome it seemed, unemployed, and if there ever was a general who put to proof in a war every chance of success, it was he. 5 But now that fortunes were reversed and there was no reasonable prospect left of saving the troops under his command, he showed his practical good sense in yielding to circumstance and sending an embassy to treat for peace. 6 For our opinion should be that a general ought to be qualified to discern both when he is victorious and when he is beaten. 7 Lutatius readily consented to negotiate, conscious as he was that the Romans were by this time worn out and enfeebled by the war, and he succeeded in putting an end to the contest by a treaty more or less as follows. 8 "There shall be friendship between the Carthaginians and Romans on the following terms if approved by the Roman people. The Carthaginians to evacuate the whole of Sicily and not to make war on Hiero or bear arms against the Syracusans or the allies of the Syracusans. 9 The Carthaginians to give up to the Romans all prisoners without ransom. The Carthaginians to pay to the Romans by instalments in twenty years two thousand two hundred Euboean talents." 63 1 But when these terms were referred to Rome, the people did not accept the treaty, but sent ten commissioners to examine the matter. 2 On their arrival they made no substantial changes in the terms, but only slight modifications rendering them more severe for Carthage: 3 for they reduced the term of payment by one half, added a thousand talents to the indemnity, and demanded the evacuation by the Carthaginians of all islands lying between Sicily and Italy.

p173 4 Such then was the end of the war between the Romans and Carthaginians for the possession of Sicily, and such were the terms of peace. It had lasted without a break for twenty-four years and is the longest, 5 most unintermittent, and greatest war we know of. Apart from all the other battles and armaments, the total naval forces engaged were, as I mentioned above, on one occasion more than five hundred quinqueremes and on a subsequent one very nearly seven hundred. 6 Moreover the Romans lost in this war about seven hundred quinqueremes, inclusive of those that perished in the shipwrecks, and the Carthaginians about five hundred. 7 So that those who marvel at the great sea-battles and great fleets of an Antigonus, a Ptolemy, or a Demetrius would, if I mistake not, on inquiring into the history of this war, be much astonished at the huge scale of operations. 8 Again, if we take into consideration the difference between quinqueremes and the triremes in which the Persians fought against the Greeks and the Athenians and Lacedaemonians against each other, we shall find that no forces of such magnitude ever met at sea. 9 This confirms the assertion I ventured to make at the outset that the progress of the Romans was not due to chance and was not involuntary, as some among the Greeks choose to think, but that by schooling themselves in such vast and perilous enterprises it was perfectly natural that they not only gained the courage to aim at universal dominion, but executed their purpose.

**Source 2: Polybius, *Histories*, 1.88**

8 The Romans about the same time, on the invitation of the mercenaries who had deserted to them from Sardinia, undertook an expedition to that island. 9 When the Carthaginians objected on the ground that the sovereignty of Sardinia was rather their own than Rome's, and began preparations for punishing those who were the cause of its revolt, 10 the Romans made this the pretext of declaring war on them, alleging that the preparations were not against Sardinia, but against themselves. 11 The Carthaginians, who had barely escaped destruction in this p239 last war, were in every respect ill-fitted at this moment to resume hostilities with Rome. 12 Yielding therefore to circumstances, they not only gave up Sardinia, but agreed to pay a further sum of twelve hundred talents to the Romans to avoid going to war for the present. Such then was the nature of these events.

**Source 3: Polybius, *Histories*, 3.27–28.2**

27 1 At the close of the war for Sicily, then, they made another treaty, the clauses of which run as follows: 2 "The Carthaginians are to evacuate the whole of Sicily and all the islands between Italy and Sicily. 3 The allies of both parties are to be p65 secure from attack by the other. 4 Neither party is entitled to impose any contribution to construct public buildings, or to enrol soldiers, in the dominions of the other, nor to form alliances with the allies of the other. 5 The Carthaginians are to pay twenty-two hundred talents within ten years, and a sum of a thousand talents at once. 6 The Carthaginians are to give up to the Romans all prisoners free of ransom." 7 Later, at the end of the Libyan War, after the Romans had actually passed a decree declaring war on Carthage, they added the following clauses, as I stated above: 8 "The Carthaginians are to evacuate Sardinia and pay a further sum of twelve hundred talents." 9 The very last of this series of agreements that made with Hasdrubal in Spain, that "The Carthaginians are not to cross the Ebro in arms." 10 Such is the diplomatic history of the relations between Rome and Carthage up to the time of Hannibal.

28 1 While therefore we find that the crossing of the Romans to Sicily was not contrary to treaty, for the second war, that in which they made the treaty about Sardinia, it is impossible to discover any reasonable pretext or cause. 2 In this case everyone would agree that the Carthaginians, contrary to all justice, and merely because the occasion permitted it, were forced to evacuate Sardinia and pay the additional sum I mentioned.